

## AI technician

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A technician's car is his home and his office for many hours a day, and it is filled with all the necessities of his trade. In addition to the tank and his technician's kit, he carries a bucket and brush for washing boots after each visit, a scrap bucket, a box for spent rods and a supply of rods and sleeves both for himself and for farmers wishing to purchase them. He also carries barn charts, and literature for those who want information on specific bulls.

McDowell averages about 90 miles a day, with afternoons being the busiest time for him. He checks in with headquarters each evening to get the early morning requests for service, then again at 8:30 a.m. and again at 11. By now, he knows his territory well, and can drive to almost any farm without checking the address or location. Once he gets the names, however, he goes over them and organizes his itinerary for the most efficient route.

When McDowell first arrives on a farm, he checks to see if the cow is there and if a certain bull is requested. He laughingly says the most important way a farmer can help a technician is to have the cow in the barn and marked. If a certain bull is not requested, Mac talks it over with the farmer and they decide which bull to use. At that oint the semen is taken from the tank, carefully recorded, and put into a thaw unit which must be kept at 95 degrees for optimum conception. McDowell says, "There are not short cuts. What they tell you is the way to do it."

A bucket of warm water and his kit are then taken to the barn where the semen is inserted in a rod and Mac prepares the cow. Once the insemination takes place, McDowell must keep careful records, making a receipt for Atlantic and the farmer and marking the barn records.

At that point he sanitizes his boots, makes any notes and takes off for the next location. He says, "If you want to remember you

better write it down."

McDowell says he doesn't worry about farm dogs or even cows kicking him, saying, "Before they kick they send you signals that they are nervous." For nervous cows he appreciates a farmer being on hand to stand near them.

If it were up to him, McDowell says there wouldn't be any bulls on farms. Of course, he stresses he can provide service more reliably and cheaply, but he points out, "They're dangerous animals for one thing. And farmers are losing money on bulls. The offspring cannot be like what he'd get from one of our sires. There is no chance of them being so good. I've been preaching that for years and years."

Spending time with him as he travels from one farm to another to inseminate cows, it becomes obvious that the dairymen whom he serves respect this soft-spoken, genial technician. Amos K. Lantz, Paradise, put it this way, "He encourages us when we are discouraged." Several others express their appreciation for the service he provides.

At several stops he takes time to discuss potential breeding problems, and offers suggestions. One young farmer wants to talk about using lulatoryse, and the proper time to call the technician. To each McDowell replies with assurance from his years of experience on the job. He says later, "It always help to have faith in your work."

When he has bred all the cows requested in one day he often spends time visiting prospective dairymen, explaining what he can offer to improve their herd. He figures a technician and the selection of bulls is one of the most important parts of dairying, offering a good tool to improve any herd.

McDowell was raised on a dairy farm near New Hope, then worked with the dairy herd and creamery at Rutgers, with bried work at importing Jersey cows and milking at a commercial dairy on Long Island. But for the last 33



During his 33 years with ABC, breeding cows throughout Lancaster County, McDowell has sloshed a lot of sanitizer across his boots. His concern for each farmer and the health of his cows is reflected in McDowell's sentiments: "It's a little more than just a business relationship."

## I-S Districts elect officers, honor members

SOUTHAMPTON — Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperatives continued their annual meetings this week, as District 3 members met at the Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church, Chestnut Level on Tuesday.

District 3 Director and Inter-State President Robert B. McSparran presented three members with awards recognizing five consecutive years of participation in Inter-State's Cost of Production Study. Receiving the awards were: Robert S. Housekeeper, Peach Bottom; Willis M. Martin, Nottingham; and Ed W. Zup, Jr., Peach Bottom.

Four members received awards for 25-year memberships. They were: Elmer Weber, Peach Bottom; Lester Wiker, Rawlinsville;

years he has been serving the dairymen of Lancaster County, helping make improvements in the dairy industry.

As he says, breeding the 100,000th cow is just a milestone. He will continue driving the roads of the county, visiting with the farm families he has come to know and care for, and providing a valuable service to dairy farmers.

—S.B.B.

K.D. Linde, Oxford; and Alfred Overly, Quarryville.

Inter-State's District 12, which met last Friday in Quarryville, announces the following election results:

Christiana Local - Charles L. Groff, Kinzer, president; Gilbert S. Martin, Paradise, vice president; Allan D. Rohrer, Paradise, secretary-treasurer; Delegates - Joseph L. Fisher, Ronks; C. Nevin Hershey, Ronks; and J. Ray Rank, Paradise; Alternate Delegates - Calvin D. Beiler, Paradise; Christ F. Beiler, Ronks; Ivan Bowman, Jr., Ronks; Roy C. Neff, Paradise.

Quarryville Local - Willis B. Krantz, Quarryville, president; P. Robert Wenger, Quarryville, vice president; Robert H. Kreider, Quarryville, secretary-treasurer; Delegates - David E. DeLong, Quarryville; Herbert H. Graybill, New Providence; Robert C. Groff,

Quarryville; Karl W. Herr, Kirkwood; Richard P. Maule, Quarryville; John H. Myer, Quarryville; and Steven C. Neff, Quarryville; Alternate Delegates - Kenneth W. DeLong, Quarryville; R. Edwin Harnish, Christiana; Robert G. Hershberger, Quarryville; A. Dale Herr, Kirkwood; Donald G. Herr, Quarryville; Willis B. Krantz, Quarryville; and James G. Kreider, Quarryville.

The following members were elected for hauling committees:

Edgar M. Herr committee - Robert C. Groff, Lloyd C. Welk, and Charles H. Rohrer.

Cantey committee - Levi Esh, Christiana; Kenneth R. Murphey, Quarryville.

Dale Graham committee - Amos B. Beiler and Melvin K. Zook, Christiana; John S. Kauffman, J. Robert Metzler, and Amos E. Stoltzfus, Quarryville.

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